

Alexa Neale

Research Fellow in Historical Criminology at ~~University of Sussex~~ my house near Brighton

Why Mobile Methods?

Walking, hearing, seeing = centuries-old methods for imagining & spatialising crime narratives, to collapse temporal & geographical distance.

E.g. maps, 3D models, reconstructions and site-visits to situate evidence (documents, statements, objects, photographs).*

My experiences

Walking crime scene neighbourhoods in London gave me a sense of a place and how it might have been experienced by contemporaries.**

Highlights significance of transgressed social and spatial boundaries and links between housing conditions, perceived identities and crime.

Aims/gains

I'd like to find a way to use mobile methods to *communicate* crime narratives.

E.g. Percy & Maud Clifford's last weekend, movement through the city following arrest, interview, police court, trial, prison and execution.***

*Alexa Neale, 'Murder in Miniature: Reconstructing the Crime Scene in the English Courtroom', in Alison Adam (ed.), *Crime and the Construction of Forensic Objectivity from 1850* (Palgrave, 2020), 43–67.

**Alexa Neale, *Photographing Crime Scenes in Twentieth-Century London: Microhistories of Domestic Murder* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming September 2020).

***Lizzie Seal and Alexa Neale, 'Race, Gender and Bourgeois Respectability: The Execution of Percy Clifford, 1914', *The Irish Jurist*, 60 (2018), 144–53.



Locating place from documents

The first step in thinking mobile?

The address, 21 Williams Mews, is a different class of house to the majority of premises in the Mews ... [It] is a converted stable consisting of two floors. Q

[illegible]

2K 8

Love Hut.

21, Williams Mews,
Lowndes Square, S.W.1.
Gloane 6869.

Locating place from documents

The first step in thinking mobile?

The address, 21 William Street, is a different class of premises in the converted stable complex.

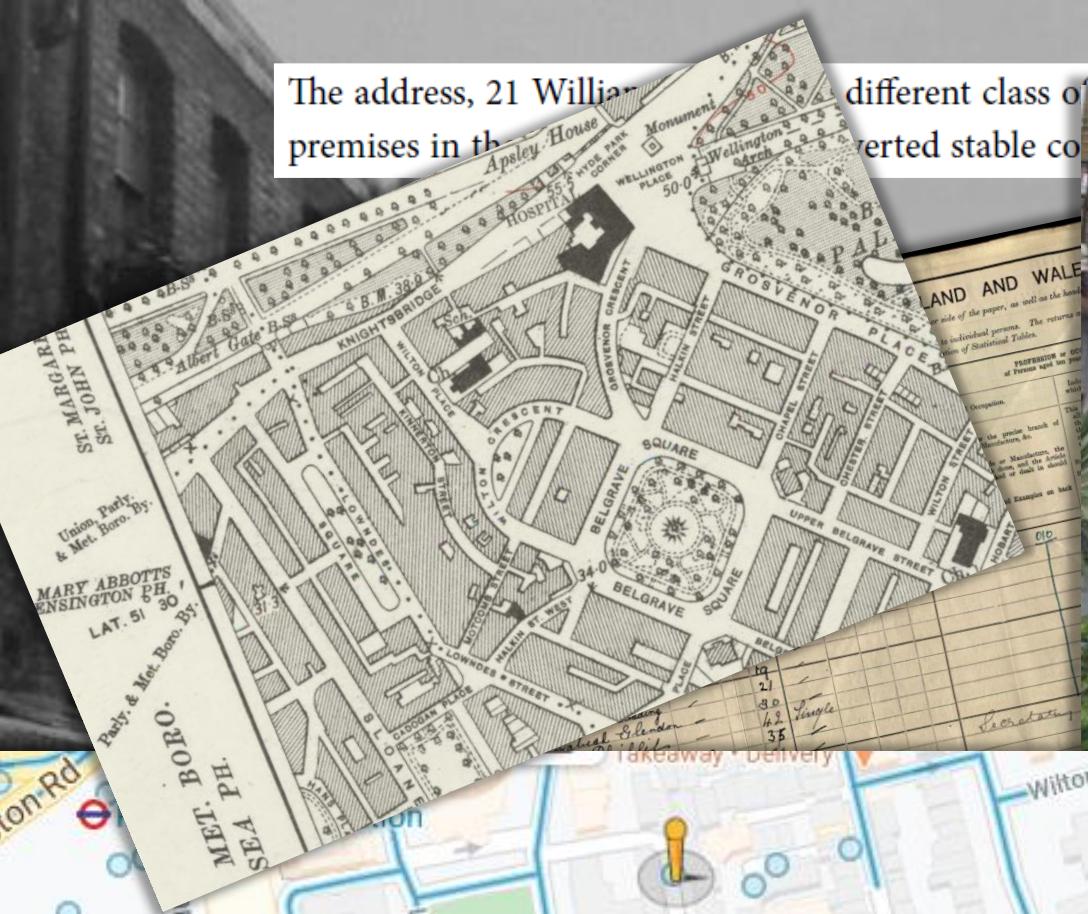


Image capture: Dec 2017



Image capture: Oct 2018 Images may be subject to



Visiting, being present
What do we do when we get there?



The judge and jury in the murder trial in progress at the Crown Court Newcastle visit the spot at Knott Flats where the body of Gary Shields was found. 29th January 1975.

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Russell Bishop: Murder trial jury retraces girls' steps

18 October 2018

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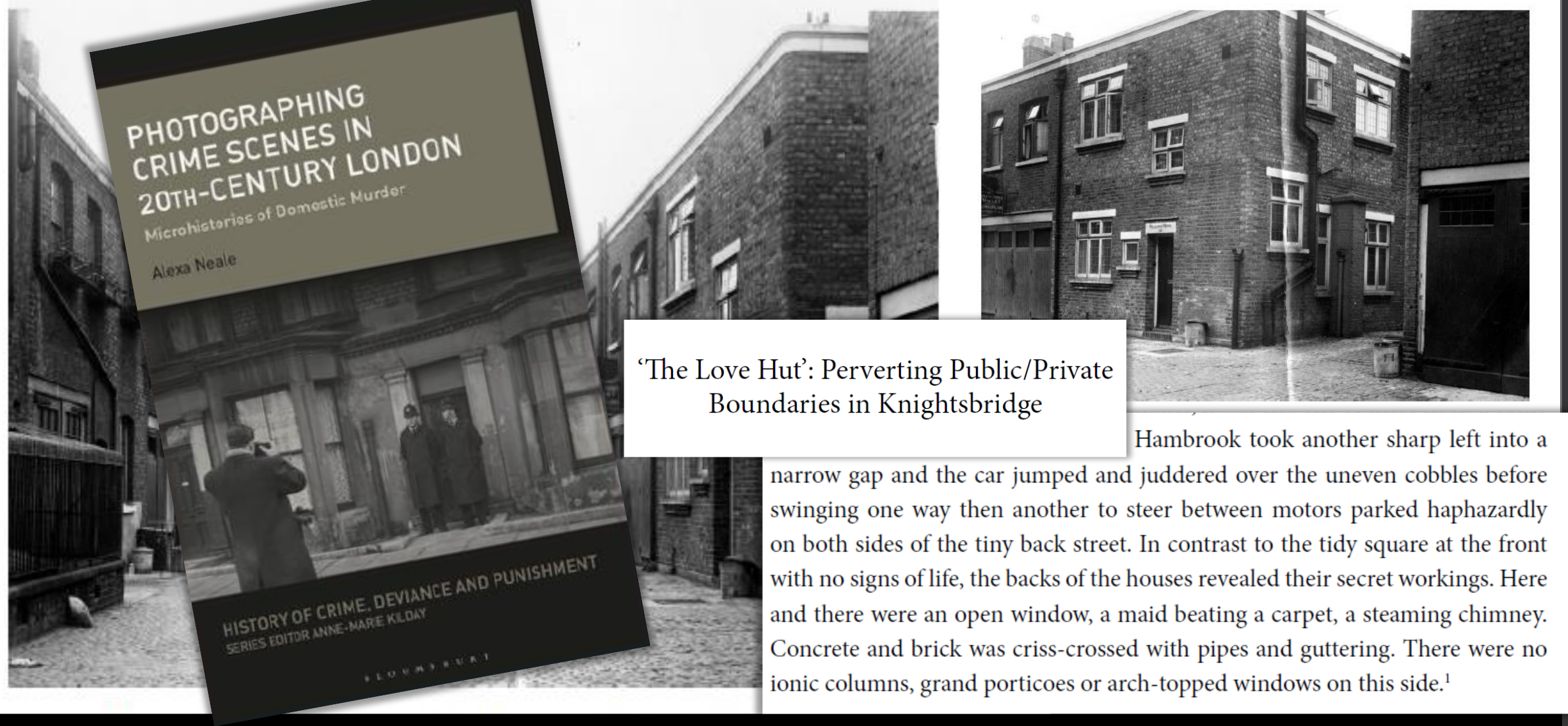
Jurors have travelled 50 miles to the south coast in a coach with a police escort.



The girls were found in a woodland den in Wild Park

Collapsing temporal and spatial distance

Imagining the crime in the courtroom, narrative playing out in space



‘The Love Hut’: Perverting Public/Private
Boundaries in Knightsbridge

Hambrook took another sharp left into a narrow gap and the car jumped and juddered over the uneven cobbles before swinging one way then another to steer between motors parked haphazardly on both sides of the tiny back street. In contrast to the tidy square at the front with no signs of life, the backs of the houses revealed their secret workings. Here and there were an open window, a maid beating a carpet, a steaming chimney. Concrete and brick was criss-crossed with pipes and guttering. There were no ionic columns, grand porticoes or arch-topped windows on this side.¹

Communicating space/place/narrative

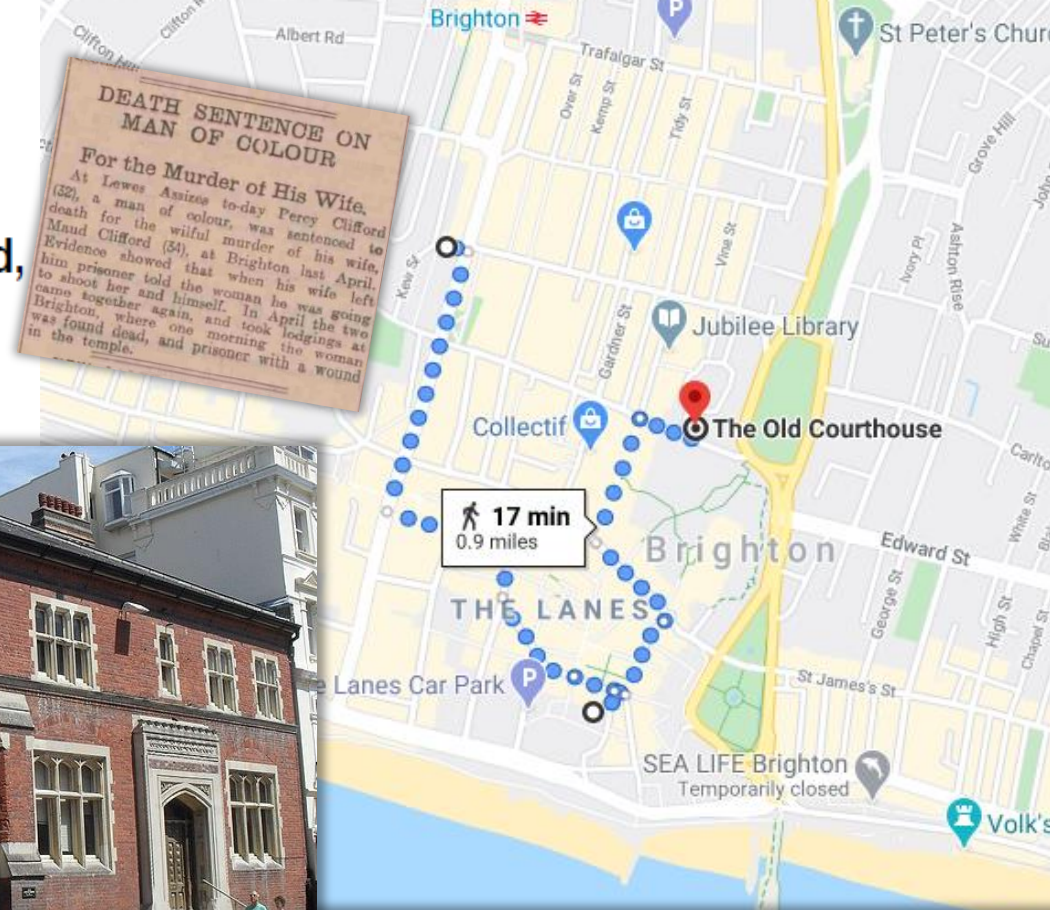
Static text, narrative description, visual aids

Irish Jurist

2018

Race, gender and bourgeois respectability: the execution of Percy Clifford, 1914

Lizzie Seal and Alexa Neale



Harry's Hammersmith

30 views • 21 May 2020

LIKE DISLIKE

Communicating narrative *in space*

Final steps in mobile methods?

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